



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Keeping Troops Safe

Using Missouri products to save the nation's troops

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to host a live-fire demonstration here in Jefferson City of the new armor plating designed and made by Missouri-owned DefBar Systems, LLC. Salem native Richard LaBrash helped come up with the concept for this lifesaving product, which took about two years to develop. While watching the demonstration, I couldn't help but think about the ways that this Missouri company could benefit our troops currently in combat and possibly law enforcement, in the future.

The new armor is called Zouline™ and has been hailed as the “next generation in armor systems.” During the demonstration, the product stopped .50 caliber armor piercing rounds, currently one of the biggest threats to troops, while the same rounds went right through a one inch thick steel plate and dense concrete. This armor can be fitted onto troop transport carriers and other vehicles that face threats of attack including improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. Zouline™ can also be used for personal protection and is high performance, low weight and easily repaired. Richard LaBrash and Jeffery Percival are the co-founders of DefBar Systems LLC, and both stress their commitment to finding solutions to keep soldiers safe.

This armor has the potential to save the lives of Missouri soldiers who are fighting overseas, which is why I am pushing to get this product to our soldiers as soon as possible. I would like to encourage the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Missouri Army National Guard to come up with a joint proposal that would quickly get this armor into the hands of soldiers.

The armor is also an exciting advancement because it is a Missouri developed product. This sort of innovation reminds me of how much the citizens of the 16th District have to offer our state. I'm sure our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan earnestly appreciate the efforts of companies who are working to keep our troops safe.

The development of this armor should be encouraged and expedited in order to benefit the lives of our military men and women as soon as possible. The sooner this product can be manufactured and start helping Missouri and the nation's soldiers, the better.

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